thereof, and a recorded medium having a program recorded therein which is used to carry out the method.

On page 1, please replace the paragraph from lines 14-19 with the following amended paragraph:

Recently, attempts are in progress which are intended to provide an electronization or digitalization of rights information as contained in cash or tickets. Currently, such rights information is generally stored in a portable medium such as an IC card or a magnetic card or managed in a concentrated manner by an issuer of rights information in the form of accounts located in a center database.

On page 1, please replace the paragraph from line 20 through page 2, line 1 with the following amended paragraph:

A system storing rights information in accounts managed by the issuer is exemplified by "e-Ticket" from "digitimini" company. In this system, an IC card which verifies the identity of a user is handed to the user upon subscription. A ticket can be reserved through Web page, and reservation information is recorded in a database maintained by the e-Ticket. The user shows his IC card when entering an auditorium, whereby a confirmation can be made if the user has previously made a reservation. Since the IC card has no storage of reservation information, this system is characterized by the absence of any limit on the data capacity.

On page 2, please replace the paragraph from lines 2-8 with the following amended paragraph:

On the other hand, a system in which rights information is stored in a portable medium is exemplified by an electronic cash system by MONDEX. In this system, electronic data which is equivalent to an amount of cash is stored in a card, which is physically carried by a user. A payment in a store can be completed by transferring the cash data stored in the card to a card of the store. This system is characterized by its ability to allow an off-line transfer of cash data without utilizing a network.

On page 3, please replace the paragraph from lines 2-10 with the following amended paragraph:

In the third instance, for the account management by the issuer, there is a problem that the management only covers those rights information issued by the issuer as a matter of course, and the storage of other rights information is generally unavailable. A vicarious agency may issue and manage any other desired rights information without accompanying any significant technical difficulty, but its operation becomes complicated owing to the needs for a deed of contract which must be concluded between a client which desires the issuance of rights information and the vicarious agency and a payment of fees associated therewith.

On page 3, please replace the paragraph from lines 11-24 with the following amended paragraph:

On the other hand, the system in which rights information is stored in a portable medium suffers from the problems as mentioned below. In the first instance, when issuing rights information or transferring it through a network, it is always necessary to have two portable media connected together to the network. An access is allowed at any time for the approach storing rights in the account, while because the portable medium is physically carried by an individual, the system of this type is subject to the fact that time when the portable medium of the other party is connected to the network is greatly limited. Accordingly, upon issuing or transferring rights information, both cards must be simultaneously put into terminals to make them in condition for use, as by communicating to each other. Accordingly, it is difficult to apply this approach for instances of use such as coupons or gift certificates which are unilaterally afforded from a transferer independently from the convenience and intent of a transferee.

On page 3, please replace the paragraph from lines 25-27 with the following amended paragraph:

In the second instance, an IC has a greatly limited capacity under the current state of the art, and accordingly, the amount of electronic rights information which can be stored is limited.

On page 4, please replace the paragraph from lines 1-10 with the following amended paragraph:

It is to be noted that in the disclosure of Japanese Patent Publication No. 27,815/1996, the electronic asset data is transferred as required from the account to a portable medium to enable a transaction, thus enabling some of the problems mentioned above to be overcome. However, it is premised that the issuer of the electronic asset data remains to be only the bank which manages the account, and thus there cannot be provided an account where a variety of rights information issued by a number of issuers can be managed. There also remains a problem that it is difficult to control a range of circulation which varies from one rights variety to another and a verification of qualification of a ticket examiner.

On page 6, please replace the paragraph from liens 7-8 with the following amended paragraph:

causing the account unit to derive the demanded electronic rights information and to transmit to the ticket examiner unit;

On page 9, please replace the paragraph from line 24 through page 10, line 13, with the following amended paragraph:

The account managing center 200 is always open on a network, and a user can deposit a variety of electronic tickets which the user has obtained into an account address assigned to the user as a result of the electronic ticket system utilization contract, so that the electronic tickets can be saved in that account or any intended one of the electronic tickets saved in the account can be withdrawn for use (or consumption). An electronic

ticket may be transferred into the account by the issuer unit in response to a demand for issuance of an electronic ticket delivered thereto, or another entity (individual, organization, corporation) may pay an electronic ticket such as a gift card, coupon or the like into the account address independently from the intent of a user of the account. In this manner, the transfer into each account does not require a key of the recipient, and anybody who knows the account number can transfer an electronic ticket into it. However, the transfer to another and/or consumption of an electronic ticket which is stored at the account address is allowed only when the owner of the account has loaded his portable processor 400 into the user terminal unit 300 or the ticket examiner units 500.

On page 12, please replace the paragraph from lines 13-17 with the following amended paragraph:

(b) when transferring or consuming the electronic ticket, the electronic ticket can be transferred with all past certificates of transfer and/or consumption with signature which have been attached to the electronic ticket as an attachment to the electronic ticket, thus allowing a profiteer to be pursued in the event of an illicit use.

On page 23, please replace the paragraph from lines 22-24 with the following amended paragraph:

Step 2001: The terminal controller 302 demands the account controller 202 of the account unit 210A to show a list of electronic tickets information which is stored in the storage 212.

On page 31, please replace the paragraph from lines 7-9 with the following amended paragraph:

Step 3307: If the circulation condition is agreed with, the electronic ticket is stored in the storage 204 and the result of verification is communicated to the issuer unit.

On page 31, please replace the paragraph from lines 10-11 with the following amended paragraph:

Step 3308: The electronic ticket is stored in the storage 204 and the treatment is terminated.

On page 31, please replace the paragraph from lines 10-11 with the following amended paragraph:

In the described embodiment, an electronic ticket is stored in an account unit on a network. However, an electronic ticket stored in an equivalent account unit may be downloaded into a portable account unit, and the account unit in which the electronic ticket is stored may be physically carried by a user together with a portable processor, whereby the ticket examination may be performed in exactly the same manner as in the present embodiment for an off-line ticket examiner unit which is not provided with an equipment for connection with an account unit on the network, by allowing the portable account unit to be connected when the ticket examination is to be made. In this instance, the account unit and the portable processor may be located within one physical unit.

On page 31, please replace the paragraph from lines 10-11 with the following amended paragraph:

Each ticket examiner unit can access an account unit on the network and thus the user is not required to store the electronic ticket body in his portable processor, but can access his account unit through the ticket examiner unit where the user has moved, thus consuming the electronic ticket.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

(Amended) A method of processing a consumption treatment of electronic rights information in a rights information processing system in which a user terminal unit, an account unit and a ticket examiner unit are interconnected on a communication network, comprising the steps of:

(a) transmitting an account address which is derived from a portable processor to a ticket examiner unit;

(b) causing the ticket examiner unit to be connected with an account unit at the account address to demand necessary electronic rights information;

(c) causing the account unit to derive the demanded electronic rights information and to transmit it to the ticket examiner unit; and

(d) causing the ticket examiner unit to verify the electronic rights information to render a decision whether the electronic rights information should be passed for a ticket examination or not.

6. (Amended) A method according to any one of claims 3, 4, and 5 in which the step (d) comprises verifying a circulation condition on the user side for the received electronic rights information, and using a result of such verification for deciding whether the electronic rights information should be passed for ticket examination or not.

10. (Amended) A method according to Claim 7 or 8, further comprising the steps of;

(d-1) causing the account unit of the transferer to demand a certificate of transfer;

(d-2) causing the user terminal unit to prepare a certificate of transfer with signature and to transmit it to the account unit of the transferee through the account unit of the transferer;

(d-3) causing the account unit of the transferee to store the received certificate of transfer with signature.

13. (Amended) An account unit according to Claim 12 in which the receiving processor means comprises means responsive to a demand for transfer to transmit a certificate of account address which guarantees a correspondence relationship between the account address of an account unit and an identifier of a user of the account unit to the accessing side issuer unit, means for receiving electronic rights information from an issuer unit, and means for storing the received electronic rights information in said storage means.